

### REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed October 19, 2004. Examination of the elected claims on their merits is now respectfully requested.

In the Action of October 19, 2004, the Office imposed a requirement that Applicant elect a single species for present examination. According to the Office, the application discloses 12 patentably distinct species represented by Figs. 1-12, respectively.

Applicant respectfully traverses this requirement to the extent that no explanation is provided in the Action to indicate why each of Figs. 1-12 represent a different and patentably distinct species. Rather, it would appear that at least some of the figures illustrate the same device in different positions or aspects, or illustrate different components or features of a common device. Consequently, Applicant traverses this requirement to elect a species and requests an explanation as to why each of Figs. 1-12 represent a different and patentably distinct species.

Assuming that 12 species are presented as alleged by the Action, the following independent claims are generic to one or more of the presented species.

Claims 1, 29 and 54 are generic to the species of Figs. 1-5 and 9-11.

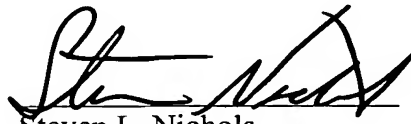
Claims 22 and 41 are generic to the species of Figs. 6-8 and 12.

Applicant hereby elects the species represented by at least Fig. 1 for present examination. The claims that read on the elected species of Fig. 1 are 1-8, 12-21, 29-37, 55-59, 61 and 62. Therefore, claims 1-8, 12-21, 29-37, 55-59, 61 and 62 are labeled as "original" above, while the other claims are labeled as "withdrawn." Examination of claims 1-8, 12-21, 29-37, 55-59, 61 and 62 is now respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 16 November 2004

  
Steven L. Nichols  
Registration No. 40,326

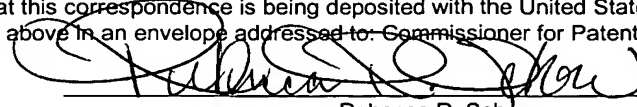
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: November 16, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Rebecca R. Schow